Though there was demand for the formation of new Societies, it was not considered desirable to increase their number without due regard to the condition of their resources. Excluding the members of the Central Bank, the number of members in these Societies rose from 2,005 to 2,796. With a view to avoid the danger of allowing Credit Societies to assume unmanageable size, action was taken to prescribe a limit for membership in some of the Primary Societies till they were able to establish good business reputation. The paid up capital of the Societies rose from Bh. Rs. 24,710 to Bh. Rs. 30,574 and the promoters of the Societies are reported to have been willing to supply funds out of the resources at their disposal. Government are glad to note that the encouragement of small loans, the enforcement of punctuality in repayments and the readiness on the part of the members to a strict adherence to the provisions of the bye-laws were the prominent characteristics of non-agricultural Societies during the year. Unfortunately, the work turned out by the Trivandrum Central Co-operative Bank alone was far from satisfactory and the Registrar has been asked to look into the condition of that Bank closely. The first co-operative conference was held at Mavelikara in Medam 1093, at which important questions affecting the co-operative movement were discussed and resolutions passed.

27. Public Works.—The total expenditure on public works amounted to Rs. 26,31,267. The cost of maintenance of roads has been steadily growing from year to year, owing to the rapidly increasing wheeled traffic in the country and the gradual rise in the cost of materials and labour. Large sums are also being spent on improvements to roads. There has been a steady improvement in the lighting of canals and backwaters and no complaints are now received in regard to the shallowness of navigable canals. In view of the increased demand on Kodayar water to balance the inequalities of the incidence of rainfall, it has become necessary to extend the storage capacity of the reservoir and an investigation is in progress to this end.

28. Railway.—Since the close of February 1918, two trains have been running between Quilon and Trivandrum every day. The financial prospects of the new line are encouraging. The working of the Travancore Branch of the South Indian Railway from Tinnevelly to Trivandrum for the first half of 1918-1919 ending with the 30th September 1918, has not only covered the entire interest charges on the original line up to Quilon, but has also left a balance of Bh. Rs. 96,726, to pay up the interest charges of the State on the extension to Trivandrum, which amount to Bh. Rs. 98,636 at 4 per cent. on the Capital. An estimate was sanctioned for providing third class passenger accommodation at all the intermediate stations between Quilon and Trivandrum. The extension of the line to the pier at Valiatura is under the consideration of Government and the final location survey of the extension is already completed. A new station under the designation of Bhagavatipuram was opened at Puliyara in the Shencottah taluk on the Shencottah-Quilon line and the provision of a goods siding for the loading and unloading of fuel at this station is under consideration.

29. Anchal.—The existing Anchal Rules have been thoroughly revised and a new set of rules issued under Regulation IX of 1089.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

30. Sanitary Department.—The Sanitary Circles, reconstituted in 1089, have been further revised since the close of 1093, with a view to ensure efficiency in the verification of vaccination. The death-rate during 1093 showed a regrettable rise from 14·1 to 15·7 per mille of population, and cholera and smallpox raged virulently in several parts of the State, causing the mortality of 1,129 and 1,514 persons respectively. The mortality from fevers also showed an increase from 4·18 to 4·96 per mille. Smallpox and influenza have not yet altogether disappeared, while the prevalence of cholera even now gives room for anxiety. Government

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